

MCRC FROST CALL 010-04 DATED 17 FEBRUARY 2004

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command

Subj: OFFICER CANDIDATE WAIVER PROCEDURES FOR TATTOOS, BODY PIERCING,
ORNAMENTATION, BRANDING AND BODY MUTILATION

Ref: (a) MCRC FROST CALL 022-03 dtd 9 June 2003

1. Purpose. To notify all commissioning sources within the Marine Corps of current accession policy in regards to tattoos, body piercing, ornamentation, branding and body mutilation.

2. Background. Body marking policy has been developed and refined for the enlisted recruiting pipeline. Currently only the PLC and OCC officer candidates are screened for unauthorized body markings. The reference details the Marine Corps policies concerning body markings in detail.

3. Information. It is in the best interest of the Marine Corps to evaluate each officer applicant with regard to body markings. Marine Corps regulations do not differentiate between officer and enlisted requirements concerning body markings. Commanders are reminded that in general: mental, moral, and physical requirements are more stringent for commissioning than for enlistment.

4. Action

a. Effective immediately commanders will screen all officer candidates in a commissioning program and ensure that they adhere to the standards established in the reference.

b. Effective immediately the Commanding Officer, Officer Candidates School (OCS) will screen all officer candidates for body markings and will process waivers for those candidates who do not have a previously approved waiver. Additionally, the Commanding Officer, OCS will ensure that candidates are counseled concerning the Marine Corps policies concerning body markings prior to graduation of OCS.

5. Waiver Authority

a. Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Midshipmen (Marine Option). For those Midshipmen currently in the program, the Senior Marine, Naval Service Training Command is authorized to waive all body markings except those in which a Commanding General is required to review. If the reference requires Commanding General review, those requests will be sent to the CG, MCRC (ON/E). Effective immediately, all body marking waivers will be approved by the President, NROTC Selection Board and reviewed by the CG, MCRC (ON/E) for those applicants applying for NROTC Scholarships or advanced standing.

b. Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). For those Marines currently enrolled in MECEP the Senior Marine, Naval Service Training Command is authorized to waive all body markings except those in which a Commanding General is required to review. If the reference requires Commanding General review, those requests will be sent to the CG, MCRC (ON/E). Beginning with the FY-05 MECEP Selection board, all body marking waivers will be approved by the President, MECEP Selection Board and reviewed by the CG, MCRC (ON/E).

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c. Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). Effective immediately all body marking waivers will be approved by the President, ECP Selection Board and reviewed by the CG, MCRC (ON/E) for those Marines applying for the Officer Candidates School.

d. Meritorious Commissioning Program (MCP). Effective immediately all body marking waivers will be approved by the President, MCP Selection Board and reviewed by the CG, MCRC (ON/E) for those Marines applying for Officer Candidates School. For those Marines currently enrolled in the MCP the Senior Marine, Naval Service Training Command is authorized to waive all body markings except those in which a Commanding General is required to review. If the reference requires Commanding General review, those requests will be sent to the CG, MCRC (ON/E).

6. Point of contact is LtCol R. F. Wendel, MCRC G-3, at DSN 278-9437 or commercial (703) 784-9437.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. B. Wittle', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. B. WITTLE
By direction